

UNDERHILL NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY & MAPPING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 @ 6:30 PM
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING (HELD REMOTELY)
Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members:

Member Sandy Wilmot, Chair*
Member Val Stori, Vice Chair*
Member Amy Golodetz, Clerk*
Member Johnathan Drew*
Member Patrick Lamphere (Joined Late)*
Member Karen McKnight*

Staff/Municipal Representatives:

Andrew Strniste, Planning Director*

Others Present:

Ryan Ochs (Underhill Resident)*
David Demarest (Underhill Resident)*

* This symbol denotes that this party joined via Go-To-Meeting. To view the recording of the evening's meeting, visit the Mt. Mansfield Community Television website: <http://mtmansfieldctv.org>, or at the following link: [\(insert link here once available\)](#).

[6:37] The inaugural meeting was called to order, with Member Wilmot as the organizer. She advised that the formation and assembly of the Committee was approved by the Selectboard, which was to be comprised by members of the Planning Commission and the Conservation Commission. Member Wilmot then advised that the meeting was being recorded in accordance with Vermont State law. No public comment was provided.

AGENDA ITEM: INTRODUCTIONS

[6:39] Those who were in attendance introduced themselves. Resident Ryan Ochs informed the Committee that he thought he'd be able to assist given his background in forestry and GIS, as well as working for the State of Vermont. Resident David Demarest inquired about the Conservation Commission's attempt to perform a similar project in the past. Member McKnight informed Resident Demarest that the funding was not obtained, and therefore, the project never came to fruition.

[6:42] Member Drew nominated Member Wilmot as Chairperson of the Committee. The Motion was seconded by Member McKnight and approved unanimously. Member Golodetz volunteered to take minutes going forward. Staff Member Strniste took minutes for the evening's meeting. Chair Wilmot nominated Member Golodetz to be the Committee's Clerk. The motion was seconded by Member McKnight and approved unanimously. The Committee unanimously approved Member Stori as Vice Chair.

AGENDA ITEM: PURPOSE

[6:48] Now Chair, Member Wilmot provided an overview of what she envisioned the purpose of the Committee was to be. She informed the other Committee Members that the initial phases of the inventory and mapping process would be to collect available data and determine where potential holes in the data are. In the initial phases, prioritizing the data in relation to zoning or the regulations was not a focus. The work that the Committee will be doing will hopefully lay the

foundation for future land use planning in the Town of Underhill. The Committee discussed Act 171 and how that applied to the project. Chair Wilmot then informed the Committee that after phase one (the data gathering phase), involving the public to determine the priorities, while also consulting with Jens Hilke, would comprise Phase II. The Committee discuss its scope as approved by the Selectboard, and whether the Committee would play a part in Phase II. Resident Ochs informed the Committee that a lot of the data for Phase I could be obtained from the Agency of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish & Wildlife. He then informed the Committee that he'd be happy to assist in collecting the data. Member Stori inquired about the duration of the project – whether it be months or years. Resident Demarest expressed his concerns about “self-proclaimed scientist” entertaining private landowners’ properties without permission to collect data. Chair Wilmot advised that the intention was not anyone from the Committee to perform the field data gathering process. Staff Member Strniste will work with Resident Ochs regarding the assembly of available GIS data, which is expected to be completed in a month’s time. Chair Wilmot will inquire with Jens Hilke to ascertain what type of assistance and support is available. Vice Chair Stori will research the availability of grants for field data gathering. Chair Wilmot informed Resident Ochs about other Towns who have completed a natural resources map – specifically Jericho and Johnson.

[7:12] Discussion ensued about the longevity of the Committee. Staff Member Strniste opined that the Committee would likely be beneficial for the entirety of the project, specifically for coordination purposes, as well as to be a liaison between the Planning and Conservation Commissions.

[7:16] The Committee reaffirmed the sensitivity of data collecting on private properties. Staff Member Strniste advised that when collecting data, remembering the expected outcomes of the project was important. Resident Demarest was reassured that the Committee wants to be cooperative with private landowners.

AGENDA ITEM: PROCESS

[7:23] The Committee discussed the process going forward. They choose a regularly meeting time of 6:30 PM on every third Tuesday of each month. Should any additional meetings be required, a special meeting will be scheduled.

[7:27] The Committee unanimously agree to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Andrew Strniste, Planning Director

The minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting were accepted this ____day of _____, 2020.

Sandy Wilmot, Natural Resources Inventory & Mapping Committee Chair